

You are responsible
for your own safety.
Enjoy!



The Amami Islands Rules

To enjoy nature of Amami-Oshima, Kikai, Tokunoshima,
Okinoerabu, and Yoron Islands

Request from *Kenmun*, a spirit in Amami's folklore

Publisher: Nature Conservation Division, Environment and Forestry Affairs
Department, Kagoshima Prefecture

First edition: March 2012

Second edition: March 2019

10-1, Kamoike-Shinmachi, Kagoshima City,
Kagoshima Prefecture 890-8577
099-286-2111 (representative)

Tel: Japan Wildlife Research Center
Editing: Futoshi Hamada, Katsuki Oki, Okinawa Prefectural Institute of Health
Pictures: and Environment, Japan Wildlife Research Center

Design : artpost inc.
Illustration: Yuko Horiki

To enjoy nature of Amami-Oshima, Kikai,
Tokunoshima, Okinoerabu, and Yoron Islands

The Amami Islands Rules

Request from *Kenmun*,
a spirit in Amami's
folklore



The Amami Islands Rules



-  National Park (Marine area)
-  National Park (Land area)
-  World Heritage nominated property



Tokunoshima Island



Okinoerabu Island



Yoron Island



Introduction

The Amami Islands have precious, rich nature and were designated as a National Park in 2017. Amami-Oshima Island and Tokunoshima Island are nominated to be inscribed on the World Heritage List along with the northern part of Okinawa Island and Iriomote Island. This booklet presents important information for tourists, in order to preserve nature of the Amami Islands forever. Please respect nature and culture of the Amami Islands and enjoy your trip.

Contents

- 2 Introduction**
- 4 Requests from Amami's spirit, Kenmun**
- 6 Must-see Nature Map**
 - 6 Northern Amami-Oshima Island
 - 8 Southern Amami-Oshima Island
 - 10 Kikai Island and Tokunoshima Island
 - 12 Okinoerabu Island and Yoron Island

14 From island to island – Amami World Heritage Trail

- Forests**
 - 16 How to enjoy the forests
 - 18 To protect nature of Amami
 - 20 What you need to know when trekking/hiking
 - 22 What you need to know when driving at night
- Sea**
 - 24 How to enjoy mangrove forests and sea
 - 26 What you need to know when visiting mangrove forests, using canoes and observing sea turtles
 - 28 What you need to know when sea bathing, diving and snorkeling
- 30 What to wear and bring**
- 32 What you need to know when visiting villages**
- Dangerous creatures**
 - 34 Forests
 - 36 Sea
- 38 Contact in case of questions or trouble**



Amami jay



Mikyo Area (Tokunoshima Is.)

Requests from Amami's spirit, Kenmun



I'm *Kenmun*! I'm a spirit who has been living in the Amami Islands since old times.

People in the islands treat me with awe and respect as "a guardian spirit of mountains" and we have been living together in harmony.

Nature in the Amami Islands, where I live, is rich and mysterious. It is home to many rare animals and plants such as famous Amami rabbit which can only be seen here. Please take your time to go around the islands.

My requests to the visitors

Don't litter the mountains and the sea, please take your litter with you. And never bring any animals and plants from other places, because they often harm native species of the Amami Islands and take over their habitats.



Forests, rivers and the sea of Amami are filled with animals and plants that you have never seen before. But if you are too absorbed, you might get lost.



There are many local guides who can take you to must-see sights while respecting the nature of Amami, so please try to walk with them.

I'm always somewhere in the nature of Amami. So open your eyes and listen carefully to find me. I'm always waiting for you!

About Kenmun

Kenmun is a spirit that is said to live in the boundaries of Amami's nature and people's lives. It is said to be small like a child, red-headed, its whole body is covered with hair, and has extremely long arms and legs. There has always been a story of witnessing him since old times. Folklores say that while he loves sumo-wrestling and helps people, sometimes he makes people get lost in the forests and takes out their eyes.

